The Grenada
NEWSLETTER

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"FAIR TRIAL" HEARINGS BEGIN

Defence Counsel "petrified with fear"

ONE OF THE DEFENCE COUNSEL in the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial swore on April 25th that she had been "petrified with fear" by what she saw as the hostility of the group of persons from which the jury was to be selected for the trial.

This Defence Counsel, Miss Norma Linton, was giving evidence before Judge James Patterson on events in the High Court on 11th April 1986 when, it is alleged by the Defence, potential jurors showed extreme bias and hostility towards the accused and their lawyers.

Hostile

"I dont believe", Miss Linton said, "that, in all my 18 years at the Bar, I have ever experienced another situation where potential jurors were so openly hostile to persons in connection with whom they were soon to be called upon to be judges of the facts".

Before Judge Patterson was a Motion, filed by the Defence in 1986, claiming that the 17 then "accused" (now "convicted") persons in the Trial could not have a fair hearing by the jury which had been empaneled. The Motion asks that the Trial, then proceeding before Acting Chief Justice Dennis Byron, be ordered stopped until the matter be settled by a Court.

This Motion first came before Judge Patterson nearly two years ago, in June 1986, when the Defence, led by Jamaican barrister Mr Ian Ramsay, asked Mr Patterson to disqualify himself on the grounds of bias.

MR JUSTICE JAMES PATTERSON

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
• "Fair Trial" Hearings Begin...	1
• Sanders On OECS Unity Assignment.....	3
• CARICARE Officials Visit Grenada.....	7
• Rotarians Meet In Grenada....	8
• News Shorts.....	9

The Judge was unmoved by Defence arguments alleging bias but still did not hear the Motion. His Court had no jurisdiction to do so, he said. Mr Patterson went on to say that, even if the Court had jurisdiction, he would decline to issue a "conservatory" order staying the proceedings then before the Acting Chief Justice.

See TRIAL Page 2

TRIAL From Page 1

The matter was taken by the Defence to the Appeal Court which ruled that Judge Patterson was wrong. He did have jurisdiction to hear the Motion, the Court said. That hearing did not take place before the Murder Trial was concluded on December 4th 1986, when 14 of the accused were condemned to hang for murder and 3 received long prison sentences for manslaughter.

Bias

The Motion came again before Judge Patterson on April 18th when the Defence, still led by Mr Ramsay, asked Mr Patterson to disqualify himself on the grounds of bias. Reference was made to the Judge's statement, in June 1986, that he would not have issued the staying Order even if his Court had had jurisdiction. This, the Defence said, showed "intellectual bias".

Judge Patterson did not accept the arguments and the Defence has appealed against his decision. Meanwhile, the Motion continued to be heard and four members of the Defence Team, (Messrs Maurice Frankson, Earl Witter and A J icholson, and Mrs Jacqueline Samuels-Brown) which is composed entirely of Jamaican barristers gave evidence in the week ending 23rd April.

Two more members of the team, Miss Norma Linton and Mr Glen Cruickshank, gave evidence on April 25th, all this testimony relating to the alleged behaviour, on 11th April 1986, of the potential jurors in the Murder Trial who were in Court on that day.

Withdraw

April 11th 1986 was the day on which Mr Ramsay announced to the Trial Judge, Acting Chief Justice Byron, that he and the Defence Team had been instructed by the then "accused" to withdraw from the case.

Miss Linton testified that, in the tense moments which followed this announcement, there were several hostile shouts from the potential jurors in the Court room. These shouts, she said, included, "Lock them up. Dont make them leave. All you Jamaicans come here and take our money and now you want to leave the case"

The other member of the Defence team who gave evidence on April 25th, Mr Cruickshank, said that, for some 13 to 16 minutes, the potential jurors were clapping, jeering and booing at the Defence Team and at the persons in the dock.

He told Judge Patterson that one of the things he heard the potential jurors shout was, "You all 'fraid to dead ? You never gave Bishop a chance so we wont give you a chance. You all are murderers, you all must hang".

It was a time charged with tension, with the potential jurors "spitting venom", Mr Cruickshank said, when Police and persons dressed in army uniforms carrying weapons "materialised from nowhere"

Effect

"This had the effect on me of feeling that they were here to bear us away in custody", he said.

The hearing took a new and surprising twist on the following day, April 26th, when one of the convicted persons, former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, gave evidence.

The surprise came when, after Coard had been taken through his evidence by Defence Counsel Mr Maurice Tenn, he was cross-examined by Prosecution Counsel, Guyanese Mr Doodnauth Singh, Senior Counsel.

Coard gave testimony relative to conditions he had experienced since he was arrested on 6th November 1983, and he spoke also of the "hostility" of the group of persons from which the jury was chosen.

Legitimacy

These things, he said, made it impossible for the trial to have been fair but, when Mr Singh began his cross examination, he (Singh) touched on none of the matters Coard had raised. Instead, he posed a series of questions aimed at establishing the legitimacy of the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) of which Coard had been a part.

This line of questioning was soon objected to by Defence barristers, Jamaican Mr Ian Ramsay and Guyanese Senior Council Mr Clarence Hughes. The questions were

See TRIAL Page 4

SANDERS ON OECS UNITY ASSIGNMENT

Interest not yet attended by a great swell of emotion.

MR RON Sanders, Consultant to the Secretariat of the Organisation Of East Caribbean States (OECS), said in Grenada on April 28th that he had visited six OECS countries and held discussions with a wide cross section of people on the subject of the proposed OECS political unity.

Degree

"I am led to the conclusion there is a high degree of interest among the people of the Eastern Caribbean on the subject of political union", he said.

Mr Sanders told a press conference his visit to Grenada marked the end of a two month assignment. That assignment, he said, related to the proposal adopted by the OECS Heads of Government in May last year that the countries of the OECS come together in political union, and he has been assisting the OECS Secretariat with establishment of mechanisms on the information and education aspects of the proposal.

The widespread interest he had found in political unity, Mr Sanders said, is not yet attended by a great swell of emotion. He suspects the absence of emotion is due to the fact that a clear time frame has not yet been established for various stages of the process including the holding of a referendum.

Educating

Some work has been done in educating the public in the OECS, he said, and he commended the efforts of the National Advisory Committee in St Vincent and the Independent National Committee in St Lucia.

"But", he said, "all of those who have worked hard over the last few months will be the first to tell you that much remains undone before there will be a full appreciation of the value of political union.".

Step

The OECS Heads of Government will meet in St Vincent in May, Mr Sanders said, and he is sure that, at that time, the process of widespread education and information will be taken a step further. At that time also, he said, there is likely to be consideration of ways of deepening the consultative process with political parties, the private sector and the trade unions.

On his visit to Grenada, Mr Sanders met Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and was told by him that a National Committee has been established in Grenada, by past and present parliamentarians, under the chairmanship of Mr Danny Williams, Minister of Health.

Intention

"In a subsequent meeting with Mr Williams", Mr Sanders told the press, "he told me that it is the intention of the National Committee

See SANDERS Page 5

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TRIAL From Page 2

irrelevant, they said, and had nothing to do with the Motion before the Court.

Declarations

Mr Singh, on the other hand, argued that his questions were relevant. He pointed out that the Defence Motion before the Court asks for certain declarations relative to the Court as a "Court of Necessity", and it was important, he said, to establish the legitimacy or otherwise of the PRG before it could be decided whether the Court is one of "necessity" or not.

There was disagreement between Mr Singh and Defence Counsel on the implications of decisions of the Appeal Court in this connection.

Singh : "there is now new evidence.... to establish the legality of the PRG"

On May 10th 1985, the Court of Appeal declared that the Grenada Supreme Court, established by the PRG, and still in effect, is unconstitutional in that it is not the Court demanded by the Grenada Constitution.

The Court of Appeal said further, however, that the Grenada Supreme Court is "legal" under the "Doctrine of State Necessity".

Insufficient

In that judgement, the Court of Appeal referred to the question of whether the PRG had established itself as a legitimate Government. Two of the Judges felt there was insufficient evidence to make a decision while the third Judge felt the PRG had established itself as a legitimate Government.

In Court on April 26th, before Judge Patterson, the Defence argued that, on the basis of the Court of Appeal findings, the status of the Grenada Supreme Court had been established as a "Court of Necessity", and it would be an abuse of the process of the Court for the Prosecution to open this matter again.

Mr Singh took the point of view, however, that if there is now new evidence, the evidence of former Deputy Prime Minister Coard, to establish the legality of the PRG, he had a right to open the matter.

Implications

Legal sources told NEWSLETTER that the implications of this matter rest in the fact that some of the aspects of the Defence case in the "Fair Trial" Motion now before Judge Patterson rest on complaints relative to the fact that the Grenada Supreme Court is a "Court Of Necessity".

If it can now be proved that the PRG was "legitimate", the Grenada Supreme Court will be "constitutional" and not a "Court of Necessity", and a large part of the Defence case will be undermined.

Reserved

Judge Patterson reserved his judgement until the next day, April 27th, and ruled then that Mr Singh could continue his line of questioning directed at Bernard Coard.

In reply to questions, Coard said the PRG had had resident Ambassadors in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Cuba, Venezuela, Russia and Libya. There were also Ambassadors to the United Nations and at the European Economic Community.

Prime Minister Bishop visited many countries and was accepted as Prime Minister, he said, but in the USA he was "not given his due".

Bishop addressed the United Nations and

See TRIAL Page 5

TRIAL From Page 4

attended meetings of the Heads of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), he said, but Barbados never accepted the legitimacy of the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

Cumulative

Questioned on other matters, Coard said that, at the start of the trial, he had suspected it would be difficult for him to get a fair hearing but, through the "cumulative" actions and words of the trial judge, he had become convinced of the bias of the judge and that he could not get a fair trial.

Taking the witness stand on behalf of the convicted persons, Jamaican Queen's Counsel, Mr Howard Hamilton Q C, told Judge Patterson on April 27th that the persons called to be jurors in the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial had appeared to him to be "decent people" and he had been shocked when they displayed great hostility to his clients, the then accused in the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial.

Anything

"I come from a jurisdiction where one has come to expect anything", he said, "but never before have I heard jurors express any view in relation to the case they are about to try".

Giving evidence relative to 11th April 1986, Mr Hamilton said he had been one of the Defence Team in the Murder Trial and, on that day, the Team had advised the trial judge, Acting Chief Justice Dennis Byron, that they had been instructed by the accused to withdraw from the case.

Mr Hamilton told Judge Patterson that, after the announcement of withdrawal had been made in Court, the group of potential jurors had become hostile and abusive towards both the accused and the Defence Team.

Some of the abuse shouted, he said, was (to the accused) "They never gave Bishop a chance, now they want a chance, they all must hang", and (to the barristers assigned to the Defence by the Court) "They come here and take we money and now they want to leave".

Interrupted

Coard's testimony had been interrupted on April 27th to permit the taking of evidence from Mr Howard Hamilton who had come from Jamaica for that purpose, and the former Deputy Prime Minister returned to the witness box on April 28th.

He told the Court that an article in the "Washington Post", by columnist Jack Anderson, confirmed to the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) that, after the March 13th 1979 revolution, the National Security Council of the United States Government actively considered blockading Grenada with warships.

Confirmed

"Based on information we had at the time", Coard said, "we were aware of this plan which was confirmed, not only by Anderson when he wrote three years later, but by United States Government officials".

Dealing with the question as to whether the PRG had been a "legitimate" Govern-

See TRIAL Page 6

SANDERS From Page 3

to invite the participation of a number of interest groups including the Chamber of Commerce, and the Civic Awareness Committee".

Mr Sanders said involvement of Opposition political parties in the process of moving towards political unity is essential. The first referendum, he said, will ask the simple question, "Do you want political unity ?", and that will be decided on a simple majority.

Majorities

Following that, however, he said, changes in the Constitutions of the OECS countries will be necessary to give effect to political union and this calls for majorities in the Houses of Representatives of, in some cases, two-thirds and in others, three-quarters. It is only when these majorities have been attained that the second referendum can be held, seeking approval of the people for the proposed new unity arrangements.

In these circumstances, Mr Sanders said, participation of the Parliamentary Opposition parties is essential to the process, and they and the Government parties in each OECS country will have to debate the issues fully in Parliament.

End

TRIAL From Page 5

ment, Coard's evidence was that the United States had given the PRG only de facto recognition. Throughout the life of the PRG, he said, both directly and in cooperation with "certain Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries", the USA had "competed with the PRG for state power"

Destabilisation

The direct "competition" had come through various methods of destabilisation, Coard said, including intrusion into Grenada's waters and air space by United States warships, submarines and aircraft.

The former Deputy Prime Minister said that, on 10th March 1983, the PRG became convinced the United States had moved from a destabilisation programme and was actively planning an invasion of Grenada.

Coard : "The USA competed with the PRG for state power"

On that date, he said, President Reagan had said on live TV and radio that "Grenada is a threat to the national security of the United States Of America".

War

"Coming from the President and Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces", Coard said, "that was nothing less than a declaration of war".

United States Embassies in Trinidad and in Barbados, he said, sponsored meetings with Grenadians and discussed the violent overthrow of the PRG. He (Coard) has spoken to someone who was at these meetings and he knows that "certain individuals who have since come to power in Grenada" were at those metings.

Coard said that the PRG had been aware of these developments and the military intervention, on October 25th 1983, by U S and Caribbean forces, had been a direct outcome.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr Fitzroy Bedeau, took the witness stand on April 29th and gave evidence relative to incidents in the Courtroom on 11th April 1986, the day on which the Defence team had notified Judge Byron that they had been instructed by the accused to withdraw from the trial.

Locked

Mr Bedeau said that after the withdrawal announcement, he had had the gate leading from the Courtroom yard locked and he had prevented anyone, including Defence Counsel, from speaking to the accused in the dock.

"I had formed the view that Defence Counsel were going to be detained", he said, "and I was anticipating instructions from the Judge".

The Assistant Commissioner did not accept the suggestion of Defence Council Mr Hughes that it was a "tissue of lies" when he (Bedeau) said he had not heard anyone use the term "murderers".

He could not deny, he said, that the words "murderers" and "criminals" may have been used, but he had not heard them as his concentration was on the accused in the dock and they were speaking very loudly.

Noise

The only noise he had heard at that time, Mr Bedeau said, was being made by the accused.

When hearings had started on April 18th, the Court had decided that sittings would last two weeks and, at the close of the sitting on April 29th, it was disclosed that both Mr Hughes and Mr Singh were due to return to Guyana shortly after that date.

After consultation with both the Prosecution and Defence, Judge Patterson adjourned the Court until May 16th.

End

CARICARE OFFICIALS VISIT GRENADA

Two Nicaraguan Prisoners Of Conscience Adopted

SIR RUPERT JOHN AND MR Donald Trotman, President and Executive Director respectively of CARICARE, the Caribbean Institute For The Promotion of Human Rights, paid a short visit to Grenada on April 18th.

The CARICARE executives met with Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, with Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and with other persons and organisations, and, at a press conference, Sir Rupert expressed his appreciation of the welcome received.

Indication

"Grenada is the first stop in a series of Caribbean visits we will make on behalf of CARICARE", Sir Rupert said in an interview with NEWSLETTER, "and if the success of this visit is an indication of what we hope to achieve, I am very pleased"

CARICARE was founded in Barbados on 20th June 1987 at a meeting sponsored by the Bustamante Institute Of Public & International Affairs.

Its principal aims include the promotion of and respect for Human and Democratic Rights in the Caribbean, and the Institute emphasises the need for educational programmes geared to informing the public on the nature of human rights and democratic principles.

Seminars

Mr Trotman told NEWSLETTER that, to this end, the Institute's programme includes the holding of seminars, the conducting of surveys and the publication of reports on situations in Caribbean states.

Sir Rupert is the first President of the Institute and MrTrotman the first Executive Director, and Headquarters of the Institute are in St Vincent.

CARICARE is a regional, non-governmental organisation with an Executive and membership drawn from several Caribbean States.

Visit

Activities of the Institute, to date, include an investigative visit to Nicaragua, led by the Institute's Director, for the purpose of adopting prisoners of conscience. That visit took place from December 3th to 15th 1987 and the Institute subsequently announced it had adopted the cases of two Nicaraguans.

One is Ramon Montes Martinez, 31, an office worker, and the other is Manuel Adan Ragama Suazo, 27, a physician and surgeon.

Montez Martinez has been imprisoned since November 1984, the charge against him being that, allegedly, while taking part in activities of the Christian Socialist Party, he criticized policies of the Nicaraguan Government.

Dr Ragama Suazo has also been imprisoned since 1984, his charge being that he was involved with a group known as the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces.

"Both men were tried and condemned by special tribunals", Mr Trotman told NEWSLETTER, "and sentenced each to nine years imprisonment".

The CARICARE Executive said also there is evidence that both men had been subjected to physical torture, systematic starvation and other forms of inhuman treatment.

Plans

These cases are to be taken up with the Nicaraguan Government and with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Mr Trotman said, and plans are being made in this regard.

Another activity of the Institute is that it has commissioned reports on the state of human

See CARICARE Page 9

ROTARIANS MEET IN GRENADA

G.G. : We must teach our children the virtues of unity and mutual respect and understanding

WITHOUT CARIBBEAN UNITY, IN WHATEVER FORM, THE individual countries of the Caribbean, small and defenseless as they are, shall always remain vulnerable to undesirable pressures from outside.

This opinion was expressed on May 6th by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon as he declared open the 7th District Conference and Assembly of Rotary International District 405.

Dedication

"It is only through unity we can ensure meaningful growth and lasting peace in our region", Sir Paul told the Rotarians, "and the realisation of this unity must begin with people like you with a common purpose, with a sense of dedication and with a commitment to serve".

Over 500 Rotarians, drawn from the 14 countries comprising District 405, attended the convention which ran until May 7th.

They were urged by the Governor General not to only talk unity but to ensure that every action is motivated by a burning desire to unite.

"Further, we must teach our children the virtues of unity and mutual respect and understanding", he said, "and we must provide more opportunities for them to meet and work with their peers across our region."

Oldest

In his address to the Assembly, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said Rotary International is the oldest Service Organisation in the world, with emphasis on "service", and it is no cause for wonder that Rotarians are "so impressive".

Rotarians are people of achievement through personal effort, he said, and can be recorded in the "Book Of Achievement" in any part of the world.

"And the fact that you are helping others in the service you render'", Mr Blaize said, "gives the lie to those ideologues who claim that people involved in profit (making) are oppressive to the so-called working class while they, themselves, oppress the working-class much more severely than can be imagined in the profit making world".

Regret

A message from Rotary World President, Mr Charles C Keller, expressed regret he is unable to attend the Conference, but he was represented by H John Hatcher Jr.,56, of 806 Ellynn Drive, Cary, North Carolina, Governor of Rotary International, District 771 for the 1986-87 term.

Complimenting District 405 on its achievements, Mr Keller said Rotary International is "alive and well", not only in Grenada and all of District 405. In just over 83 years since its founding, he said, Rotary International has become strong in 162 countries and geographical regions, in 460 districts with 23,347 Clubs having a membership of 1, 470,589 Rotarians.

Strength

"Although Rotary International is over a million strong", he told the Assembly, "the real strength of Rotary is right here in this room"

See ROTARY Page 9

NEWS SHORTS

Venezuela Helps With Busses

With the help of the Venezuelan Government, the fleet of the Public Transport Service (PTS) has been increased from 7 to 17.

According to the Government Information Service, efforts are being made to get another 25 busses from Venezuela.

Delivery of the 10 new busses was made on May 5th, and a Venezuelan representative was in the island to train PTS operators in the handling of these vehicles.

Watts In Senate

Dr John Watts C.B.E. has been appointed to the Senate with effect from April 28th.

Dr Watts, founder (in 1955) of the Grenada National Party, one of the elements which formed the ruling New National Party, replaces Mr Lavrence Joseph who, in the recent Cabinet shuffle, became a Minister of State.

West German Cooperative Programme Under Way

It has been announced that the first scholarship under the Cooperative Programme between the Ministry of Social Services and the Federal Republic of Germany has been awarded.

It has been given to Mr Sebastian Joseph and he left Grenada for West Germany on May 4th to persue a Technical Diploma in Civil Engineering.

According to the Government Information Service, nine other Grenadians have been accepted by West German institutions for training under the Cooperative Programme.

Through the courtesy of the Federal Republic of Germany, another Grenadian student will go to Kenya to undertake studies in Agriculture.

See NEWS SHORTS Page 10

ROTARY From Page 8

Rotary derives its strength from the personal dedication and commitment of each individual member to the Rotarian ideal of "Service Above Self", he said, and never before in the life of Rotary International has the need and opportunity for service been greater throughout the world.

The current Governor of District 405 is Mr Virgil Pestana,54, of Trinidad & Tobago and, for the 1988/89 term, he is to be succeeded by Mr L Earle Johnson, 49, of Dominica.

District 405 comprises Clubs in Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Montserrat, St Kitts/Nevis, St Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

End

CARICARE From Page 7

rights in several Caribbean territories, and a principal objective of the Grenada visit was to make arrangements to sponsor a workshop and programme in Grenada to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights.

That Anniversary is on 18th July 1988, 10 years after Grenada ratified the Convention, thereby providing the required number of signatories to bring the Convention into force.

Mr Trotman said it is hoped the programme will include participation by officials of the Government of Grenada, of the Organisation of American States and of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

End

NEWS SHORTS From Page 9

Jamaican Policemen Help With Training

Superintendent H H Malcolm and Sargeant F S Davis of the Jamaica Police Force arrived in Grenada on May 3rd on a one-year training assignment with the Royal Grenada Police Force.

The Grenada Information Service reports that, at the request of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, top officers of the Jamaican Police Force carried out a survey of the Grenada Police Force.

As a result of that survey, the two Jamaican police officers have been assigned to the training division of the Grenada Police Force with a view to preparing the Force to meet the demands for trained personnel in all Divisions.

ECDS Dissatisfied With Jamaica Drug Testing Service

The East Caribbean Drug Service (ECDS) is dissatisfied with the speed with which drugs submitted by the Organisation Of East Caribbean States (OECS) are tested by the Caribbean Drug Testing Laboratory in Jamaica.

This was disclosed by Montserrat's Minister of Health, Mr Vernon Jeffers, at a press conference on April 15th, following an ECDS meeting in Grenada.

Mr Jeffers said the meeting had agreed to issue a strong statement on the matter at the next meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers of Health. He said also that ECDS has been mandated to explore the possibility of having drugs tested elsewhere.

ECDS, established some 18 months ago, has as its aim, through bulk purchasing, the reduction of the cost of drugs to OECS Governments.

Grenada's Minister of Health, Mr Danny Williams, told the press conference that other matters discussed at the meeting included involvement of the private sector with ECDS.

USAID Funds Furniture For School

The Tivoli Roman Catholic primary school has received EC$2,782.00 which is the second installment of a total grant of EC$5,565.00 from the United States Agency For International Development (USAID).

This grant is for the manufacture of furniture for the school, which furniture is being made by joiners in Tivoli and, according to the Government Information Service, the project is expected to be completed soon.

National Trust Concerned Over Sale Of Artifacts

The Grenada National Trust has expressed concern over the sale being conducted by youngsters of Amerindian artifacts in the Pearls area on Grenada's east coast.

A Government project to remove top soil for agricultural purposes has unearthed a large number of clay, shell and bone artifacts in the vicinity of the abandoned Pearls airport.

According to Mr Michael Jessemy, Secretary of the Trust, as these artifacts are unearthed by the bulldozers, they are collected by a group of young boys and sold at a variety of prices to both Grenadians and visitors to the island.

A spokesman for the Trust told NEWSLETTER the matter is being taken up with Government with a view to preserving an important archeological site.

Governor General Visits Centenarian

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon visited Mr Joseph Sylvan on 28th April, on the occasion of Mr Sylvan's 101st birthday.

Mr Sylvan, who lives in Grenville, St Andrews, has been an active farmer and has travelled to several countries.

See NEWS SHORTS Page 11

NEWS SHORTS From Page 10

Medical School Professor Honoured

The "Melvin Jones Fellowship" has been awarded to Dr Frederick Johnson, Professor of Pathology at the Grenada based St Georges University School of Medicine.

According to a release from the School, the award was made by the Lions International Foundation and is for dedicated humanitarian services.

Dr Johnson, who is President of the Grenada Heart Foundation, has made major contributions to the "Heart Programme", through which Grenadian children are sent to the United States of America for free-of-charge treatment, including surgery.

Ministry Of Agriculture Employees Get Certificates

Nine employees of the Ministry of Agriculture have been awarded Certificates of Merit by the United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA)

The awards were made on April 20th by Mr Robert R Strong, USDA Caribbean Area Director, and are in recogition of the empoloyees' outstanding contributioin to the success of the USDA Fruit Fly Survey in Grenada.

According to the Government Information Service, the Survey was conducted over 18 months and confirmed that Grenada is free of fruit flies.

As a result, most tropical fruit grown in Grenada can now be exported to the United States of America without treatment.

GIS reports that the only countries in the world which are authorised to export fruit to the United States Of America without treatment are Grenada and St Vincent.

The presentations to the Ministry of Agriculture employees represent the first time employees of a government other than the USA have received such an award.

"Sparrow" To Be Given National Recognition

Grenadian born Dr Slinger Franciso, the "Mighty Sparrow" of the calypso world, is to be recognised by the Government of Grenada.

A Motion, tabled by Opposition Member at the House of Representatives meeting of April 29th, recommended that, recognising Dr Francisco's outstanding contribution to the cultural development of the Caribbean in the calypso art form, an appropriate place in Grenada be called after him.

The House accepted the Motion with the amendment that "suitable national recognition" be given to Dr Francisco.

The University Of The West Indies recently conferred an Honorary Doctorate on the "Mighty Sparrow", now resident in Trinidad & Tobago.

Korea Presents Vehicles.

Non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Grenada, Mr Dong Woon Chu, presented three cars and two ambulances to the Government of Grenada at a ceremony at the Prime Minister's office on April 28th.

During his visit to Grenada, Ambassador Chu paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and on Minister of External Affairs, Mr Ben Jones

Venezuelan Loan Contract Act Passed..

The House of Representatives, at its meeting on April 29th, passed the Loan Contract Act.

This Act authorises the Grenada Government to borrow US$182,790.00 from the Venezuelan Government at a rate of interest of 7%. The money will be used to buy 9,822 barrrels of asphalt for the Road Rehabilitation Project.

See NEWS SHORTS Page 12

NEWS SHORTS From Page 11

Japanese Delegation Visits.

Headed by Mr Yujo Okano, Counselor in the Japanese Embassy at Port of Spain, Trinidad, a five man delegation visited Grenada from 17th to 19th April.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told NEWSLETTER the purpose of the visit was to identify and study possible areas of cooperation, and to determine what assistance the Japanese Government can give towards the economic development of Grenada

The spokesman said the delegation was given data for further study relative to Japanese cooperation with Grenada.

The delegation paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and had discussions with officials of the Ministry of Finance and with Cabinet Ministers.

USAID Helps Community Development

The Community Development Division has received a donation of EC$28,918 from the United States Agency For International Development.

The Government Information Service reports that these funds are to complete five community projects which were started earlier this year.

These projects are the construction of a community centre, repairs to two schools, construction of a school kitchen and the supply of furniture to another school.

More AIDS Cases Confirmed

Four more cases of AIDS have been confirmed in Grenada for the first quarter of 1988.

This is disclosed in the Quarterly AIDS Report of the Ministry of Health, and the Report states that, to date, the total number of AIDS cases reported by Grenada to the World Health Organisation is eleven.

The Report says also that, in addition, there are five confirmed HIV cases, that is, persons who do not have AIDS symptoms but who are able to pass on the infection.

Addressing a National Community Education Meeting on April 28th, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Herbert Jesudason, said the use of the condom and limiting sexual partners can have only limited success.

The final answer to AIDS, he said, is for people to have their own sexual partner and be faithful.

Grenville Subscribers Now Dial Direct

Telephone subscribers on the Grenville exchange in St Andrews were introduced to international direct dialing at approximately 12.00 noon on Sunday April 24th.

St Georges and two exchanges in the south of the island, Mt.Hartman and Westerhall, had this service on 21st March 1987, Carriacou on 16th June 1987, St Davids on 31st October 1987, and Petit Martinique on 24th December 1987.

Alister Hughes Cynthia Hughes

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Alister & Cynthia Hughes, Journalists
Of Scott Street, St Georges, Grenada, Westindies
(P.O.Box 65: Phone [809] 440 2538: Cables HUSON, Grenada